

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NOTES OF THE MEETING 26.05.2015:

President Paul Elliot opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 18 members present. He invited **Peter Pugh** who was accompanied by his wife Rosemary to give his presentation on the **Trans-Siberian Railway**.



The presentation covered the period 1901-1917. The railway was built in 6 sections and went from Vladivostok on the Pacific Ocean coast to Moscow where it joined Russian lines. A number of postcards were shown illustrating the building of the railway which opened in 1902.

The display concentrated on Far East British Mail carried on the Trans-Siberian railway. The mail was shipped from Hong Kong or one of the ports that had a treaty with Britain such as Foochow, Amoy, Kingpo and Shanghai to Vladivostok with pictures of the ships used to carry the mail also shown. As there were British post offices in the "Treaty ports" they used Hong Kong stamps on the covers and postcards. The rates charged for the stamps were determined by the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U). The stamps were cancelled with a postmark to show the place of origin of the mail and 'By Siberia' was written on each of the covers. The destination of the mail was mainly to Britain and a variety of European countries but there were examples of letters to the United States and Persia. From 1917 the amount of mail carried on the Trans-Siberian railway declined with the outbreak of the Russian Revolution.

There was a great variety of material – covers, postcards, maps, timetables – all having been carefully researched and displayed, which members enjoyed viewing. President Paul gave a vote of thanks and the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary
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